Department of Toxic Substances Control

Alan C. Lloyd, Ph.D.
Agency Secretary
Cal/EPA

1011 North Grandview Avenue
Glendale, California 91201

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

September 27, 2005

Dear Mr. Tabidian:

Thank you for submitting comments regarding the Centex project. We hope that you will continue to work with us during the characterization and remediation of this site.

Summarized below are your comments and immediately following is a response indicating how DTSC plans to incorporate your comments in the investigation:

1. Although the source of perchlorate has not been confirmed the likely source is SSFL since they are the only known users of perchlorate in the vicinity of the Centex project.

Perchlorate has been detected in soil within the creek bed. As depicted in the workplan, additional soil samples are being collected to provide a detailed delineation of the lateral and vertical extent of perchlorate. Soil samples will be collected up gradient of the delineated extent of perchlorate in the stream bed and tributaries to evaluate whether perchlorate migrated down these channels from upstream sources including SSFL. If perchlorate is detected in any of these channels we will "follow it" with additional sampling upstream, to identify the perchlorate source. We will also collect water samples from the creek and seeps to verify the previous analytical testing and determine whether surface water contains perchlorate.

2. Rocks and boulders are coated with salt and for remedial purposes it is important to understand the composition of this salt.

DTSC staff has also observed white powdery portions of soil along the creekbed that appear to be the result of efflorescence corresponding to the high water mark of the creek. DTSC will sample this material and analyze it for perchlorate.

3. It would be beneficial to characterize the extent of perchlorate contamination in the unsaturated zone and the saturated zone because clay may be underlying the creekbed where perchlorate was detected, and perchlorate will not accumulate in the clay, so it may have migrated to deeper portions of the unsaturated zone even if we have non-detects.

During this phase of the investigation, DTSC plans to evaluate the site for potential risks to human health and the environment. This will require that we delineate the lateral and vertical extent of perchlorate detected in the creek bed. If analytical test data indicate that perchlorate extends through the vadose zone and approaches the saturated zone, then DTSC will proceed to characterize the saturated zone.

We will share all the data together with tables and maps from the investigation with you. You have been added to our distribution list and will receive all future correspondence regarding our investigation. I hope we have addressed all your concerns. We would like to meet with you at your convenience to discuss this project. If you have any questions, please contact me at (818) 551-2822.

Sincerely,

Sara Amir, Branch Chief
Southern California Cleanup Operations